

# The Ames Intelligencer

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## Historic Preservation Week Activities Planned

By Sharon Wirth

A variety of activities are being planned to celebrate Historic Preservation Week, May 12-20, 1990. "By drawing public attention to this nation's remarkable historic places, we are keeping America's heritage alive, and at the same time, generating interest in historic preservation by demonstrating its importance in everyday life," says National Trust President J. Jackson Walter. In Ames, the Historic Old Town Association, Ames Heritage Association, and Octagon Center for the Arts are co-sponsoring preservation-related activities.

The Historic Old Town Association will sponsor a historic home tour in the Old Town Historic District on Sunday, May 20. Several homes undergoing restoration will be open to the public from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 (adults) or \$3.00 (seniors/students). The Old Town Historic District is located in central Ames, north of the downtown business district. It encompasses nearly all of the remaining houses from the first two plats of Ames. A variety of architectural styles can be found here from Italianate to Queen Anne to Bungalow. Contact Nancy Ezarski (232-1002) or Sharon Wirth (233-2415) for further information.

The Octagon Center for the Arts has planned a series of lectures, workshops, and tours. Cathy Richardson, stained glass artist and craftsperson, will present a slide/lecture series on "Stained Glass from a Historical/Technical Perspective" (May 1, 7-8:30 p.m.) and "Secular Stained Glass: Use of Glass in Residential Public Buildings and in Three-Dimensional Forms (May 8, 7-8:30 p.m.). She will also lead a walking tour to

view leaded glass art in Ames' local churches, residences, and public buildings on Saturday, May 12, from 2-4:00 p.m.

Sharon Wirth, preservation activist, will lead a heritage hike on Saturday, May 19, from 2-4:00 p.m. (all ages welcome). Put on your walking shoes and join a guided tour of the downtown business district to explore its history and architectural heritage. This includes examining interior and exterior features of these familiar buildings.

Jerry C. Miller, who restored the Victorian stenciling in the Iowa Capitol, will conduct a workshop and present a slide lecture on Wednesday, May 23, from 7-9 p.m. on "History of Stenciling." On Wednesday, May 30, from 7-9 p.m., "Design Pattern: A Hands-On Workshop" will be presented. A fee will be charged for these events. Contact The Octagon Center for the Arts (232-5331) for more information or to register for these activities.

The Ames Heritage Association will host an open house at Hoggatt School at 1900 Burnett Avenue on Sunday, May 20, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Hoggatt School is the first schoolhouse built in Ames in 1861. It was moved to its current location on the Meeker School grounds and restored by the Ames Heritage Association. The one-room school is authentically furnished with children's desks, a schoolmarm's desk, wood-burning stove, dunce cap, and other school materials of the time period. This event is free and open to the public.

These activities offer a variety of exciting opportunities for Ames residents and visitors to learn about the community's heritage and ef-

orts to preserve it for the future," according to Ames Heritage Association President Kathy Svec. "We encourage people to spend some time in May exploring the city's past and learning how it is important to the future of Ames."

### Historic Preservation Week Proclamation

Whereas: "Keeping America's Heritage Alive" is the theme for Historic Preservation Week 1990, co-sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Old Town Association, Ames Heritage Association, Octagon Center for the Arts, and Historic Preservation Commission in Ames, Iowa;

Whereas: Historic preservation gives Americans a deeper understanding of their richly diverse architectural and cultural heritage;

Whereas: Historic preservation promotes local community pride in America's towns, cities, and rural areas;

Whereas: Historic Preservation Week provides an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate the protection of our nation's treasures;

Now, therefore, I, Larry Curtis, Mayor of Ames, Iowa, do hereby proclaim May 13-19, 1990, as Historic Preservation Week and call upon the people of Ames, Iowa, to recognize and participate in this special observance.

## Bauge Project Update

Slowly, but surely, progress continues on the Bauge family log house project. A policy regarding access has been developed and is reprinted elsewhere. Fundraising activities have been planned, including a letter to supporters requesting financial contributions.

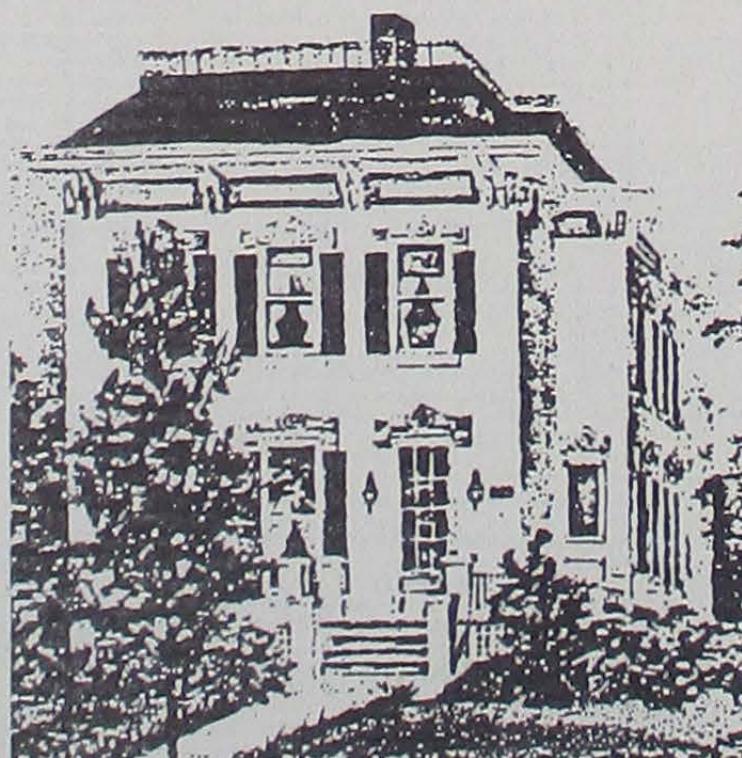
Ann Legvold Watts of Ames has identified a number of fundraising ideas, including a cookbook and anecdote publication and sale of collectible items. Ann also has ideas for oral histories, collection of photographs and memorabilia of the 1890-1910 time period, and publicity.

Finally, two open houses have been scheduled this summer to allow the public to tour the Bauge home in the process of restoration.

On Sunday, June 24 from 2-4 p.m. and Sunday, July 22 from 2-4 p.m., members of the Ames Heritage Association will open the log home for inspection. Refreshments will be served.

In conjunction with the restoration process, the Ames Heritage Association authorized Sharon Wirth to contact historical contractor Keith Rollenhagen of Ames to discuss reconstruction of the lean-to addition and reshingling of the roof this summer.

For more information about the Bauge home project and to make your financial contribution, contact board members Sharon Wirth or Cele Burnett.



## Policy for Access to Bauge Home Established

1. Groups requesting access to the loghome should first contact the Story County Conservation Board's McFarland Park office (R.R. 2, Ames, IA 50010, 515/232-2516) between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to coordinate scheduling.
2. Following registration at the McFarland Park office, registered visitors may pick up a key from the McFarland Park office and walk to the log home site by (a) parking at the main parking lot and walking around the lake or (b) parking at the office parking lot and walking north to the site. Maps are available at the office.
3. Visitors may drive to log home site under supervision of the McFarland Park staff. There will be a limit of six vehicles allowed per program. Therefore, carpooling is recommended. The Story County Conservation Board is not responsible for any damage to personal vehicles driven to the site. The trail to the home is a service road; it is not a paved or maintained road.
4. Visitors may request the services of volunteers to provide programming at the log home site. The following persons may be contacted as guides: Cele Burnett (515/232-2516); Sharon Wirth (515/233-2415); Ann Watts (515/292-5228); and Everett Ritland (515/232-2096).
5. The guides will pick up the keys to the gate and the home at the McFarland Park office prior to the program and will return the keys to the McFarland Park office following the program.
6. Individual visitors may visit the log cabin site at the discretion of the McFarland Park staff.
7. General park rules are applicable to visitors to the Bauge home. A park brochure is available at the McFarland Park office.
8. Because of the fragile condition of the historical log home, alterations and damage to the structure will not be permitted.

## Cookbooks and Memories

As a fundraising project for the Bauge log house, the Ames Heritage Association is planning to develop a cookbook with recipes and reminiscences of the 1890-1910 time period in the Huxley area. If you have recipes, stories, and memories of cooking on a wood stove, please let us hear from you! We want this to be more than just a collection of recipes; we want a book of anecdotes and memories!

Send your ideas to Ann Watts, 3619 Mary Circle, Ames, IA 50010, 515/292-5228. Thank you!



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# Ray School Picnic Remembrances

by Farwell T. Brown

Ray School was a one-room school that stood on the west side of the road across from today's Ames Golf and Country Club. It stood perhaps 20 rods north of the present country club entrance. Ray School was one of many one-room school houses that dotted the countryside prior to the 1920s when the consolidation movement got into high gear. Ray School was probably one of the original schools to become a part of the Gilbert School system in 1917.

It was before 1917 that the Ray School families developed a tradition of holding picnics at family farm homes in the school's district, and they became known as the "Merry-Go-Round" picnics. After the schools in the Gilbert area became consolidated, the picnics seemed to fade away, and a great void developed among the old friends. They missed those get-togethers.

In 1921, some of the Ray School folks began to talk about the fun and fellowship that they once experienced. The idea again took hold, and an annual picnic was resumed. My father, Harry Brown, had taught at the school for four winter terms prior to his graduation from Iowa State College in 1898. Ray School families became some of my favorite people when I was a boy, probably in large part because the Ray School picnic was resumed.

The Ray School picnic acquired a new life at the gathering of a sizeable group of families in the

fall of 1921 at the Sam Allen farm just south of today's golf course. Activity began at Allen's farm home in late afternoon that day. Picnic baskets loaded with fried chicken, pies, cookies, and cakes were arranged, while the kids played catch out on the farm drive and traded stories about school and their summer's work and fun. I remember Lloyd Templeton, Maxwell Brockman, the Musgrove boys, Fred Poole, and others. Their parents had all attended Ray School. Represented were family names such as Sawyer, Musgrove, Allen,

memories of the Ray School picnic.

I still remember the extra pieces of chicken and the second helping of ice cream. After the food was gone and the women had packed up their dishes, the kids were directed to the front lawn of the Allen's farmstead to play games. As the evening grew darker, some of us sat on the front porch. We heard stories traded between the "old folks" in the house. The details, of course, escaped us. There was singing. Ernie Hunter, with his guitar, and Clate Mangus sang old-time favorites, and the rest of the folks joined in. The harmony of the voices within the house that evening should have been recorded. It was their custom to close with the singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

That annual picnic continued until 1950. After 1921, it was held around the neighborhood in farm homes in the original "Merry-Go-Round" fashion.



*The students of the Ray School near Gilbert pose for this photograph in 1897. The teacher was Maude Wakefield.*

Templeton, Mathison, Davis, Clouser, Mathew, Morris, Hunter, Cole, and Benn, to mention a few.

Fred Davis, who operated a dairy on South Kellogg in Ames at that time, brought an ample supply of vanilla ice cream that evening. Fred Davis, Amiel Mathieson, Alfred Musgrove, Rob Tressler, and Roy Templeton had all married Sawyer sisters and had settled in the Ames area. The entire Sawyer family had been long associated with Ray School. Today it will be the descendants of such families who still live in the Ames area who will have

ion. I think it was in 1927 that Walter Grove and his wife, who was Inez Hunter, built a cabin on their farm just north of Ames. The Groves invited the Ray School friends to have their picnics at that cabin, and it became the site of the annual event. It continued at that location every June until 1947. The tradition grew, and it was not unusual for as many as 100 folks to attend those occasions, as former students, teachers, their families, and friends became a part of the celebration. The 1927 attendance reached 150 according to a story in

the Ames Tribune. Most were from the Ames area, but some former students and teachers of old Ray School came from great distances, even the west coast.

There was always what might be called a "program." Lots of visiting took place; some games were planned. There were speeches made by former teachers. One man who came from a great distance gave his reasons for believing that the education gained in Ray's one-room school was superior to the education afforded by the new "consolidated school." It impressed me when he referred to consolidated schools as "consolidated fools." Most of the talks were about lives after the school years, interesting careers, work, and travels, especially of those who came from distances to renew old friendships.

There were readings, songs, and skits by the younger generation. Wanda Mathison gave readings on several occasions. One year, my father wrote a "many-versed" jingle about the Ray School days and put it to the tune of "Clementine." He sang the words, mother played a comb, my sister played a jaw harp, and I played a mouth organ for the accompaniment. The Gilbert High School quartet sang. I remember Lloyd Templeton, Roy Hanson, Herman Holmes, and Byron Tressler singing a popular song entitled "Crazy Words." The young folks introduced the old folks to the latest tunes of the day.

I have never known the origin of

the name "Ray." The schoolhouse was moved and made into a part of a house somewhere up north of Gilbert, I've been told. After Mrs. Grove died, Walter gave the land where their cabin was located to the city, and we now have the beautiful Inis Grove Park. The Ray School picnic, as it became known in its last years, was held only a few years after that. The last generation of Ray School students became older, some too old to get to a picnic. The once-happy event ceased to exist. Like the once popular Chautauqua and the one-room school itself, activities like the Ray School picnics gave way to larger more centralized activities, usually more distant from neighbor-

hood homes. Ease of travel and communication redefined the meaning of "community." Gatherings like the old Ray School event, with its natural spontaneity, are hard to find today. The need for friendship and community sociability remains and still can be exhilarating as in the 1920s.

"If you meet a Merry-Go-Rounder  
Any time of day,  
If you ask him of his school days  
He will say "Old Ray."

Every year we have a picnic  
When the weather's fair  
With chicken, jelly,  
jam, and goodies  
Everyone is there."

By a "Merry-Go-Rounder"



*This photograph taken about 1900 features the students at Ray School with their teacher, Katy Mauser.*

*Please enroll me as a 1990 member of the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Regular (\$12.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Senior or Student (\$8.00)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Business and Organization (\$30.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$100.00)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Life (\$1,000.00)

*Please make checks payable to the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION and mail to  
Treasurer Nancy Ezarski, P.O. Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010.*

*Thank you!*

# Committee Descriptions and Projects Identified

The Board of Directors of the Ames Heritage Association has been working to develop a stronger committee structure. Committee members, descriptions, and projects have been identified. If you would like to volunteer your time and expertise in any of the following areas, contact any board member today!

## Membership Committee

- organizes annual membership renewals
- seeks new members using various strategies
- maintains supply of membership brochures
- helps to identify members interested in participating in the projects of various committees

### Members:

Suzanne Kelly  
Nancy Ezarski  
Cele Burnett

## Facilities/Projects Committee

- coordinates care of historical sites owned and/or operated by the Association
- works with tour groups
- may appoint or seek subcommittees for each site (Bauge Home, Hoggatt School, etc.)
- pursues the museum dream
- organizes special events or one-time-only projects of timely or specific interest
- organizes research projects on local history as a basis for publications or presentations by the Association
- organizes the ongoing recording and transcribing of oral histories.

### Members:

Don Faas  
Dwight Herold  
Lee Himan  
Polly Gossard  
Sharon Wirth  
Cele Burnett

### Hoggatt School Subcommittee:

Bob DeHart  
Vern Millard  
Lloyd Alderman  
Bruce Kellogg

## Public Information/ Education Committee

- oversees publishing of regular newsletter
- releases articles or features of historic interest to area media
- publicizes activities and events of the Association through various means
- organizes regular workshops and programs for the general public and members on topics of historical or history-related interest or topics related to the purposes of the organization
- presents slide shows on Ames history

### Members:

Everett Ritland  
Rose Rollenhagen  
Bev Kudla  
Cele Burnett (newsletter)

## Finance Committee

- sees to funding of the organization through means other than memberships
- writes appropriate grants at local, county, state and national levels or through foundations
- organizes various sales and merchandising opportunities using available historic materials

### Members:

Kathy Svec  
Bill LaGrange  
Bev Kudla  
Jack Adams

# History Project Receives Funding

The Ames Public Library and the Ames Heritage Association have received funding from the State Historical Society of Iowa to catalogue and print copies of photographs of Ames history donated to the library by Ames Historian Farwell T. Brown.

This project was one of 206 applications requesting more than \$6.1 million. Only \$1.2 million was available for funding at the time the application was submitted.

In another matter, the Ames Heritage Association voted to purchase tape-recording equipment for Farwell Brown to continue his oral history project to record Ames history.

Thanks to retiring president Jack Adams and board members Jan Halverson and Jay Cole Simser! We appreciate your interest and support for the Association and historic preservation. Thank you for your years of service!

# Tilden Family Letters Publication Announced

Ames historian Farwell T. Brown has announced that a very limited number of his publication of the Tilden family letters is available. For more information, contact Farwell Brown at 232-9444.

## Order Form

To: Farwell Brown  
1801 20th St. K-25  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Phone: 515/232-9444

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the TILDEN FAMILY LETTERS. Hard cover binding at \$27.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling per copy. Check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



From meetings of the Board of Directors of the Ames Heritage Association:

- Reports by Treasurer Nancy Ezarski indicating a balance of \$3907.91 as of March 1990, including \$1421.21 in the Bauge home project account and \$2486.70 in the general fund account;
- Reports by the Nominating Committee (see results of election elsewhere);
- Reports by Membership Committee concerning reprinting membership brochures and the membership recruitment project for Ames High School alumni;
- Reports concerning Association projects, including 125th Ames anniversary publication, calendar sales, dedication of the new city hall, preservation of the Public Safety Building, Historic Preservation Week activities, committee descriptions and projects, requests for grants to fund projects, Billy Sunday Cemetery plaque, and use guidelines for Hoggatt School;
- Reports concerning the Bauge family log home project, including an access policy, fundraising activities, restoration process, and open houses.

## Election Results Announced

At the annual membership meeting held in January, the following individuals were elected as officers of the Board of Directors:

President: Kathy Svec  
Vice-President: Don Faas  
Secretary: Bill LaGrange  
Treasurer: Nancy Ezarski

Individuals serving on the Board of Directors include:

Terms to expire 1991:

Farwell Brown  
Cele Burnett  
Don Faas  
Polly Gossard  
Suzanne Kelly

Terms to expire 1992:

Jack Adams  
Nancy Ezarski  
Dwight Herold  
Everett Ritland  
Rose Rollenhagen

Terms to expire 1993:

Lee Himan  
Bill LaGrange  
Kathy Svec  
Bev Kudla  
Sharon Wirth

## Ames Heritage Association Officers

President Kathy Svec  
603 Grand Avenue, Ames  
232-4877

Vice-President Don Faas  
4419 Ross Road, Ames  
232-1613

Secretary Bill LaGrange  
2800 Torrey Pines Road, Ames  
292-4131

Treasurer Nancy Ezarski  
714 Douglas Avenue, Ames  
232-1002

Editor Cele Burnett  
1214 Curtiss, Ames  
232-2791

Ames Official Historian  
Farwell T. Brown  
1801-20th Street, Ames  
232-9444

The Ames Heritage Association meets the third Monday of every month (September through May) at 7:00 p.m. at the Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the third Monday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

The *Ames Intelligencer* is published three times a year—winter, spring, and fall.

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